

## Community resources

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courage is contagious

## Viewing cable 09KABUL4070, THE NEW CABINET: BETTER BUT NOT BEST

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at theparagraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags #cablegate and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. #09KABUL4070.

Reference ID      Created      Released      Classification      Origin  
[09KABUL4070 2009-12-19 16:21 2011-08-30 01:44 CONFIDENTIAL Embassy Kabul](#)

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.aftenposten.no/spesial/wikileaksdokumenter/article3992521.ece>

VZCZCXRO1101  
OO RUEHDBU RUEHPW RUEHSL  
DE RUEHBUL #4070/01 3531621  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 191621Z DEC 09 ZDK  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4178  
INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 05 KABUL 004070  
SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 12/19/2019  
TAGS PGOV, PREL, AF  
SUBJECT: THE NEW CABINET: BETTER BUT NOT BEST

Classified By: Ambassador Ricciardone reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Summary: President Karzai sent most of the cabinet list to the Parliament on December 19 with the notable exception of National Directc  
12. (U) First Vice President Fahim Khan announced the following list at the Parliament on December 19: REMAINING:  
--Defense - Abdul Rahim Wardak. --Interior - Mohammad Hanif Atmar. --Finance - Mohammad Omer Zakhilwal. --Communication - Engineer Amirzai Sangi  
REPLACEMENTS:  
--Economy - Dr. Anwari Al-Haq Ahadi. --Culture - Sayed Makhsum Raheem. --Higher Education - Obaidullah Obaid. --Commerce - Ghulam Mohammad Elaq  
NOT ANNOUNCED:  
--Foreign Affairs --NDS --Urban Development

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Analysis: We Can Work With Most  
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13. (C) The following list includes some background information on each of the selections, to include which political powerbroker supported the  
REMAINING:  
--Defense - Gen. Abdul Rahim Wardak (Pashtun). He was a mujahadeen commander during the Soviet occupation, and later spent over two decades in  
--Interior - Mohammad Hanif Atmar (Pashtun). He earned his Master's degree in International Relations and Post-war Development from York Univer  
--Finance - Mohammad Omer Zakhilwal (Pashtun). He has Canadian citizenship, and most think he is willing to renounce his citizenship if the Afgh  
Arghandewal branch. He is close to President Karzai and raised funds for him during the campaign, at times using methods that are not illegal h  
--Communication - Engineer Amirzai Sangin (Pashtun). He earned his Bachelor's degree in Electronics and Communications from the Southern London  
--Justice - Sarwar Danish (Hazara). He is a prolific writer and has published fifteen books on Islamic Jurisprudence, and other legal issues. E  
--Education - Ghulam Farooq Wardak (Pashtun). We consider him an effective minister. However, the press reported widely that he misused his put  
--Water and Energy - Al-Haj Mohammad Ismail Khan (Tajik). This former warlord is known for his corruption and ineffectiveness at the Energy Mir  
--Women's Affairs - Hosun Bano Ghazanfar (Uzbek). She was supported by the primarily Uzbek Junbesh political party, although they admitted that  
--Public Health - Dr. Sayed M. Amin Fatimie (Pashtun). He is a former doctor and enjoys the support of Upper House Speaker Mojaddedi, and the f  
--Agriculture - Asif Rahimi (Tajik). We find him articulate and competent, but that he does not always deliver on his ambitious goals. He overs  
--Parliamentary Affairs - Mohammad Anwar Jekdalek (Pashtun). He obtained this position due to his close personal relationship with President Kar  
--Counternarcotics - Gen. Khodaidad (Hazara) will remain for now, although Presidential Chief of Staff Omer Daudzai told Deputy Ambassador Ric  
ministries. He holds graduate degrees from the Indian National Defense Academy. He has been a very good partner for U.S. counternarcotics effor

REPLACEMENTS:  
--Economy - Dr. Anwari Al-Haq Ahadi (Pashtun). He was the Finance Minister and remains the head of the pro-Pashtun Afghan Millat party. He marr  
--Culture - Sayed Makhsum Raheem (Tajik). His family is associated with Zahir Shah. Many MPs claim he is too liberal after he was caught on tel  
--Higher Education - Former Kabul University Medical School Chancellor Obaidullah Obaid (Tajik). Supported by Marshall Fahim. Reportedly compet  
--Commerce - Ghulam Mohammad Elaqi (Hazara). He was the Central Bank Chairman in the 1990s, and former Chamber of Commerce President until 2008  
--Transportation - Dr. Mohammadullah Batash (Uzbek). He was previously the Junbesh Party Chairman, and was one of the four names the Junbesh pa  
--Hajji & Islamic Affairs - Enayatullah Baligh (Tajik). He is from Kapisa and is an influential prayer leader at Kabul's main mosque. He was a p  
--Public Works - Engineer Mirza Hussain Abdullahi. He obtained his PhD in Engineering at the University of Hawaii. He is beholden to Khalili, a  
--Mines - Wahidullah Shahrani (Uzbek). He is the former Minister of Commerce, and his family is from Badakhshan. We consider him one of the mos  
--Rural Rehabilitation & Development (MRRD) - Wais Barmak (Tajik). He is currently the deputy in this ministry, and is associated with Marshall  
--Labor and Social Affairs - Mohammad Ismail Munshi (Turkmen). He is one of the Deputy Chairmen of the Junbesh party. He is associated with Dos  
--Border and Tribal Affairs - Hamid Gailani (Pashtun). He is a moderate Pashtun and currently is the Deputy Speaker of the Upper House of the A  
--Refugees - Enayatullah Nazeri (Tajik). He is from Parwan  
KABUL 00004070 004 OF 005  
Province and studied law and political science at the Kabul University. He was a respected civil servant and is viewed as relatively apolitical

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NOT ANNOUNCED  
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14. (C) President Karzai has made no announcement about his advisors, his Chief of Staff, the Foreign Affairs Minister, NDS, the OAA, the Inde  
15. (C) It was unusual that NDS Saleh was not announced with the others, as both Karzai and his Chief of Staff have told us on numerous occasio  
16. (C) The Parliament debated extensively whether or not President Karzai had the right to divide, add, or change Ministries without their app

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Analysis: Political Debts and Balance  
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17. (C) Of the selections announced to date, 13 of the 24 are holdovers. Former President Rabbani was engaged in intensive negotiations with Karzai

18. (C) The biggest initial winners include first Vice President Fahim, who delivered significant numbers of Tajik voters and according to our EIKENBERRY